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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 14, 2006

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NATIONAL COMPETITION NEXT FOR UM NEGOTIATION TEAM

MISSOULA—

University of Montana law students advanced to the final round in the American Bar Association Negotiation Team Region 10 competition for the fourth time in as many years and once again are headed to the national finals.

Second-year law students Stephen Adamson of **Manakin, Va.**, and Tara Keller of **Sturgis, S.D.**, topped 20 teams from throughout the Northwest and Canada to win the regional competition held Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 4-5, at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The two overcame last year's national competition winner, Seattle University, to take the final round of the competition.

Fellow negotiation team members Heather Sather of **Billings**, Thad Seegmiller of **St. George, Utah**, Charlie Cromwell of **Missoula** and Lindsay Hecht of **Sioux City, Iowa**, also represented UM's law school at the regional event.

The focus of the competition this year was energy and natural resources. UM teams represented a small municipality in discussions with a wind-energy developer. In the final round, Adamson and Keller were assigned the opposing side. Increasingly complex contractual disputes

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were added to each successive round of the competition.

“Tara and Stephen were just terrific,” said Klaus Sitte, who coaches UM’s ABA negotiation team. “That momentum carried them through the next day, when fatigue and energy could have drained them.”

Sitte is an adjunct professor at UM’s law school and the executive director of Montana Legal Services Association.

“UM law school teams traditionally make a good showing in negotiation competition,” he said. “Not only do we fare well, but UM teams faithfully employ ‘getting to yes’ principles, despite significant pressure to do otherwise.”

“The competition was a way to test ourselves and our ability to communicate with teams with much different backgrounds, skills and attitudes,” Adamson said

“I can’t think of a more exciting way to end all our preparations,” Keller said. “We’re really looking forward to representing UM at the national competition.”

The competition will be held in Miami in February.

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